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5 October 1961

The Honorable Roswell L. Gilpatric  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Ros:

I enclose herewith UPI tear sheet of September 28 purporting to describe, from Pentagon sources, our plans with regard to deployment of ballistic missiles.

Needless to say, I would pay a pretty penny to get anything like that about Soviet activities in this field. I appreciate that with research, most of the items on this list could probably be discovered by a competent intelligence officer but is it necessary to make it as easy as this for our opponents?

I am sending a copy of this to Arthur Sylvester.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Enclosure

UPI-79 dated 28 September

AWD/ji

- 1 - Hon. Arthur Sylvester - Assistant Secretary - *not sent at request of Mr. Gilpatric*
- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - Col. Grogan
- 1 - ER w/basic —

UPI-79

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(AIR FORCE)

WASHINGTON--U.S. MILITARY STRATEGISTS EXPECT 27 NEW INTER-CONTINENTAL MISSILE SITES TO BE READY FOR ACTION WITHIN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS AT BASES OFFERING CONSIDERABLE PROTECTION AGAINST A-BOMB ATTACK.

THE AIR FORCE ALREADY HAS 27 ATLAS ICBM SITES. BUT THEIR CONSTRUCTION DOES NOT PROVIDE ANY MEASURABLE ASSURANCE THEY WOULD SURVIVE A MAJOR ATTACK.

PENTAGON SOURCES SAID THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND PLANNED TO TAKE OVER BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR ATLAS MISSILE LAUNCHING SITES AT FORBES AIR FORCE BASE IN KANSAS AND FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE NEAR SPOKANE, WASH.

EACH OF THE NEW BASES HAS NINE LAUNCHING SITES WIDELY DISPERSED TO AVOID BEING KNOCKED OUT BY A SINGLE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. THEIR BIG ROCKETS WILL BE STORED IN COFFIN-SHAPED UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND NEAR MISSES BY ENEMY MISSILES.

THE AIR FORCE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE FIRST SQUADRON OF TITAN MISSILES WILL BE READY FOR ACTION AT LOWRY AIR FORCE BASE, WYO., BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

ALTHOUGH CONSTRUCTION OF THE TITAN SITES DIFFERS FROM THAT OF THE ATLAS SITES, BOTH OFFER ROUGHLY EQUAL PROTECTION AGAINST NUCLEAR ATTACK.

THE 27 ATLAS SITES ALREADY UNDER SAC CONTROL ARE AT VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, CALIF.; OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEB.; AND WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, WYO. THESE LAUNCHING SITES ARE BUNCHED IN ONE AREA INSTEAD OF BEING DISPERSED, HOWEVER. THE MISSILES ARE STORED ABOVE GROUND.

EVEN THE ATLAS SITES AT FAIRCHILD AND FORBES DO NOT PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM PROTECTION PLANNED FOR LATER U.S. MISSILE BASES.

THESE NEW BASES--WHICH ARE NOT SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE--WILL FEATURE UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES IN WHICH THE MISSILE WILL BE STORED IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION RATHER THAN ON ITS SIDE.

THE UPRIGHT STRUCTURE--SHAPED LIKE AN UNDERGROUND SILO--WILL PERMIT THE MISSILE MEN TO LAUNCH ADVANCE VERSIONS OF THE TITAN FROM BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH.

MILITARY PLANNERS FEEL THIS WILL AFFORD AMERICA'S MISSILE RETALIATORY POWER WHAT IS NOW CONSIDERED THE ULTIMATE PROTECTION AGAINST NUCLEAR ATTACK.